

PARTS of Britain are braced today for the strongest storm in 15 years caused by the remains of Hurricane Katia. Central and southern Scotland, Northern Ireland and areas of northern England have been warned to expect gusts of up to 130kph (80mph). The strong winds will be accompanied by heavy rain of up to 75mm in Scotland and up to 20mm in the north of England. Motorists are warned to expect disruption and Scotland's Forth and Tay bridges could be closed. At sea, waves of up to nine metres (30ft) are predicted and waters are expected to top

coastal defences at high tide. The Met Office has issued an 'amber' alert. 'There is the potential for branches being felled from trees by the wind,' said forecaster Tom Morgan. 'At this time of the year the branches are in full leaf and heavier, which makes them weaker. Small items in the garden that are not tied down could also be blown away.' The gales will continue into tomorrow but should ease by the end of the day. The fallout from Katia could be the strongest storm since 1996, when Hurricane Lili crossed the Atlantic to reach Britain from the US.

FORMULA One driver Jenson Button is today crowned Britain's best-looking bloke, taking pole position from last year's winner Colin Firth. The racing star tops a list of 20 names compiled by Wizard Jeans, which asked 1,500 women to rank a selection of male celebrities. Spooks actor Richard Armitage came second, with Firth third.



24 'slaves' kept at traveller site

Det ch insp Sean O'Neil, from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire major crime unit, said: 'The men we found at the site were in a poor state of physical health and the conditions they were living in were shockingly filthy and cramped. We

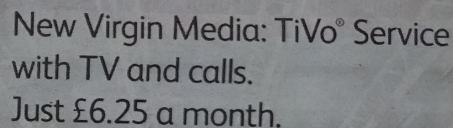
A few young children played in the road running through the campsite but many residents were

Anyone with information about what has been happening at the site is asked to contact police on 01707 355798 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

COMMUTERS who want to get fit should leave their cars at home – and catch the bus to work. Passengers walk almost 460km (286 miles) a year to and from bus stops between their homes and offices, a report reveals today. The average of 0.8 miles each day is equivalent to

survey of more than 400 journeys across Britain. 'This study clearly demonstrates that using the bus instead of the car could enhance both personal and national wellbeing,' said Dr Lewis, of Sussex university. 'This would be of substantial benefit to the two thirds of

achieve the recommended levels of exercise.' His research was commissioned by Greener Journeys, a body representing Britain's largest bus companies, which is aiming to shift more than a billion car journeys to the bus by 2014. The group will



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